

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 AID-20 OMB-01 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08

TRSE-00 NEA-10 SIL-01 LAB-06 EA-11 DRC-01 /201 W

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R 261722Z MAR 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0291

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, AG

SUBJ: JOBERT'S MARCH 22-23 VISIT TO ALGIERS

1. REVIEWED JOBERT'S VISIT TO ALGERIA MARCH 26 WITH MINISTER-COUNSELOR OF FRENCH EMBASSY NOIVILLE. HE CONFIRMED THAT FINAL TIMING WAS DECIDED AT LAST MINUTE AND OVER-ALL RESULTS WERE SATISFACTORY FROM FRENCH POINT OF VIEW.

2. NOIVILLE SAID JOBERT'S CONVERSATIONS WITH ALGERIAN MINISTERS WERE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO BILATERAL QUESTIONS, AND WITH BOUMEDIENE LARGELY TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. WITH MINISTER FINANCE MAHROUG FRENCH BELIEVE THEY ARE FINALLY NEAR ALGERIAN RELEASE OF REMAINING BLOCKED FRENCH PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNTS (ABOUT \$8 MILLION).

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3. WITH MINISTER INDUSTRY ABDESSELAM JOBERT DISCUSSED

AT SOME LENGTH ARAB FAILURE TO REMOVE EMBARGO ON THE NETHERLANDS. THIS ISSUE WAS ALSO RAISED WITH MINISTER INFORMATION AND CULTURE AHMED TALEB AND FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA. ALGERIAN REPLY WAS THAT HOLLAND, BY FAILING TO MAKE A STATEMENT AS MOST OTHER EUROPEANS HAVE DONE, HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO LIFT EMBARGO. THEY LEFT IMPRESSION HOWEVER THAT DECISION TO MAINTAIN EMBARGO WAS LARGELY WORK OF OTHER ARAB STATES WITH ALGERIA READY TO LIFT EMBARGO IF CONSENSUS TO DO SO DEVELOPED.

4. JOBERT ALSO DISCUSSED WITH ABDESSELAM TECHNICAL BREAKDOWN AT SIKKDA LNG PLANT. ABDESSELAM STRONGLY DENIED THAT BREAKDOWN WAS IN ANY WAY DUE TO ALGERIAN NEGLIGENCE. NOIVILLE SAID FRENCH TAKE POSITION THAT BREAKDOWN IS A COMPLEX TECHNICAL PROBLEM PROBABLY RELATED TO INTRODUCTION OF NEW AND UNTRIED TECHNOLOGY WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE PERFECTED.

5. NOIVILLE SAID JOBERT HAD NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS WITH BOUTEFLIKA IN FORMAL SESSIONS AND IN BITS AND PIECES DURING DINNERS AND LUNCHEES. ALGERIANS HAD RAISED QUESTION OF CONDITIONS OF ALGERIAN WORKERS IN FRANCE BUT HAD NOT PRESSED POINT. ALGERIAN MINISTER OF LABOR "HAD NOT BEEN AVAILABLE" THUS AVOIDING IN DEPTH DISCUSSION WITH HIM. AT HIS MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE, JOBERT ANNOUNCED THAT FRENCH MINISTER LABOR GORSE WOULD BE VISITING ALGERIA LATER AND WOULD BE PREPARED DISCUSS EMIGRATION PROBLEMS. NOIVILLE NOTED THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD INDICATED WHETHER IT WAS INTERESTED IN INCREASING TOTAL NUMBER OF ALGERIANS WORKING IN FRANCE.

6. WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE JOBERT DISCUSSED (AS HE HAD WITH BOUTEFLIKA) PROSPECTS FOR EUROPEAN-ARAB CONFERENCE. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE WAS DESIRABLE BUT DETAILS WERE NOT EXPLORED. BOUMEDIENE ALSO RAISED QUESTION SPECIAL SESSION UNGA INDICATING THAT MAIN PROBLEM WAS GLOBAL, INVOLVING ALL RAW MATERIALS, BUT CONCEDED
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THAT PETROLEUM WOULD BE IMPORTANT ASPECT.

7. BOUMEDIENE AND JOBERT ALSO DISCUSSED THEIR VIEWS OF CHINA WHICH WERE SIMILAR AND POSITIVE. BOUMEDIENE REVEALED HIS PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF NORTH KOREA WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAD BUILT INDUSTRIES AND AT SAME TIME MAINTAINED HIGH CULTURAL STANDARDS. FRENCH BELIEVE ALGERIANS WERE LESS FAVORABLY

IMPRESSED WITH NORTH VIETNAM. BOUMEDIENE ALSO MADE
STRONG BID FOR MORE FORTHCOMING FRENCH ATTITUDE
TOWARD SIHANOUK'S FORCES IN CAMBODIA.

8. NOIVILLE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT JOBERT HAD BEEN VERY UPSET
BY ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST ACCOMPANIED BY
PHOTOGRAPH CAPTIONED TO SHOW JOBERT ADVISING ASAD
AGAINST LIFTING EMBARGO AGAINST U.S. HE SAID JOBERT
FELT AMERICANS WERE MISINFORMED ABOUT FRENCH
VIEWS ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

9 RE RUMORED STOP-OVER BY BOUMEDIENE IN PARIS ON
WAY TO OR FROM SPECIAL SESSION UNGA, NOIVILLE SAID
THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW (AND HE SEEMED QUITE CERTAIN)
JOBERT HAD NOT CONVEYED AN INVITATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS
BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY
RE POMPIDOU'S HEALTH.
NOIVILLE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE UNCHARACTERISTIC FOR BOUMEDIENE
TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN SEEKING SUCH A MEETING.
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